

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1408

AN ACT

To establish the Lower East Side Tenement National
Historic Site, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lower East Side Tene-
5 ment National Historic Site Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1)(A) immigration, and the resulting diversity
4 of cultural influences, is a key factor in defining the
5 identity of the United States; and

6 (B) many United States citizens trace their an-
7 cestry to persons born in nations other than the
8 United States;

9 (2) the latter part of the 19th century and the
10 early part of the 20th century marked a period in
11 which the volume of immigrants coming to the
12 United States far exceeded that of any time prior to
13 or since that period;

14 (3) no single identifiable neighborhood in the
15 United States absorbed a comparable number of im-
16 migrants than the Lower East Side neighborhood of
17 Manhattan in New York City;

18 (4) the Lower East Side Tenement at 97 Or-
19 chard Street in New York City is an outstanding
20 survivor of the vast number of humble buildings that
21 housed immigrants to New York City during the
22 greatest wave of immigration in American history;

23 (5) the Lower East Side Tenement is owned
24 and operated as a museum by the Lower East Side
25 Tenement Museum;

1 (6) the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is
2 dedicated to interpreting immigrant life within a
3 neighborhood long associated with the immigrant ex-
4 perience in the United States, New York City's
5 Lower East Side, and its importance to United
6 States history; and

7 (7)(A) the Director of the National Park Serv-
8 ice found the Lower East Side Tenement at 97 Or-
9 chard Street to be nationally significant; and

10 (B) the Secretary of the Interior declared the
11 Lower East Side Tenement a National Historic
12 Landmark on April 19, 1994; and

13 (C) the Director of the National Park Service,
14 through a special resource study, found the Lower
15 East Side Tenement suitable and feasible for inclu-
16 sion in the National Park System.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

18 (1) to ensure the preservation, maintenance,
19 and interpretation of this site and to interpret at the
20 site the themes of immigration, tenement life in the
21 latter half of the 19th century and the first half of
22 the 20th century, the housing reform movement, and
23 tenement architecture in the United States;

24 (2) to ensure continued interpretation of the
25 nationally significant immigrant phenomenon associ-

1 ated with New York City’s Lower East Side and the
2 Lower East Side’s role in the history of immigration
3 to the United States; and

4 (3) to enhance the interpretation of the Castle
5 Clinton, Ellis Island, and Statue of Liberty National
6 Monuments.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 As used in this Act:

9 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
10 means the Lower East Side Tenement found at 97
11 Orchard Street on Manhattan Island in City of New
12 York, State of New York, and designated as a na-
13 tional historic site by section 4.

14 (2) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the
15 Lower East Side Tenement Museum, a nonprofit or-
16 ganization established in City of New York, State of
17 New York, which owns and operates the tenement
18 building at 97 Orchard Street and manages other
19 properties in the vicinity of 97 Orchard Street as ad-
20 ministrative and program support facilities for 97
21 Orchard Street.

22 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC SITE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—To further the purposes of this
3 Act and the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preser-
4 vation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and
5 antiquities of national significance, and for other pur-
6 poses”, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et
7 seq.), the Lower East Side Tenement at 97 Orchard
8 Street, in the City of New York, State of New York, is
9 designated a national historic site.

10 (b) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL PARK SYS-
11 TEM.—

12 (1) AFFILIATED SITE.—The historic site shall
13 be an affiliated site of the National Park System.

14 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary, in con-
15 sultation with the Museum, shall coordinate the op-
16 eration and interpretation of the historic site with
17 the Statue of Liberty National Monument, Ellis Is-
18 land National Monument, and Castle Clinton Na-
19 tional Monument. The historic site’s story and inter-
20 pretation of the immigrant experience in the United
21 States is directly related to the themes and purposes
22 of these National Monuments.

23 (c) OWNERSHIP.—The historic site shall continue to
24 be owned, operated, and managed by the Museum.

1 **SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE.**

2 (a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary may
3 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Museum to
4 ensure the marking, interpretation, and preservation of
5 the national historic site designated by section 4(a).

6 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
7 Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance
8 to the Museum to mark, interpret, and preserve the his-
9 toric site, including making preservation-related capital
10 improvements and repairs.

11 (c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
13 tion with the Museum, shall develop a general man-
14 agement plan for the historic site that defines the
15 role and responsibility of the Secretary with regard
16 to the interpretation and the preservation of the his-
17 toric site.

18 (2) INTEGRATION WITH NATIONAL MONU-
19 MENTS.—The plan shall outline how interpretation
20 and programming for the historic site shall be inte-
21 grated and coordinated with the Statue of Liberty
22 National Monument, Ellis Island National Monu-
23 ment, and Castle Clinton National Monument to en-
24 hance the story of the historic site and these Na-
25 tional Monuments.

1 (3) COMPLETION.—The plan shall be completed
2 not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
3 of this Act.

4 (d) LIMITED ROLE OF SECRETARY.—Nothing in this
5 Act authorizes the Secretary to acquire the property at
6 97 Orchard Street or to assume overall financial respon-
7 sibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of
8 the historic site.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
11 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

 Passed the Senate October 2, 1998.

 Attest:

Secretary.

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